

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system comprising:

a local terminal apparatus connected with a local network provided
in a predetermined facility;

5 a remote terminal apparatus connected with an external network;
and

a control apparatus interposed between the local network and the
external network,

wherein the local terminal apparatus comprises:

10 processing executing means for executing a predetermined
processing; and

reply means for returning an answer signal including a status
information of said processing executing means via the local network in
response to a request signal received via the local network;

15 wherein said remote terminal apparatus comprises:

input means for inputting a predetermined operation;

transceiver means for transmitting the request signal including
control information corresponding to an operation inputted by said input
means via the external network, and receiving an answer signal

20 corresponding to the request signal via the local network; and

information output means for outputting the status information
included in the answer signal received by said transceiver means, and

wherein said control apparatus comprises:

25 gateway means for receiving the request signal transmitted from
said remote terminal apparatus via the external network, and thereafter,
transmitting the received request signal to the local terminal apparatus via

the local network, and for receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal from the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and thereafter, transmitting the received answer signal to the remote terminal apparatus via the external network.

5 2. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,
 wherein the local terminal apparatus comprises an electric power
 load apparatus,
 wherein said processing executing means controls said electric
 power load apparatus so as to selectively change over a load control status
10 thereof, and

 wherein said reply means returns the answer signal including
 status information of the load control status selectively changed over by
 said processing executing means in response to the request signal.

15 3. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,
 wherein said local terminal apparatus comprises a supervised
 apparatus,

 wherein said processing executing means executes processing for
 supervising said supervised apparatus, and

20 wherein said reply means returns the answer signal including
 status information of said supervised apparatus supervised by said
 processing executing means.

 4. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,
 wherein the external network is Internet.

25 5. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,
 wherein said remote terminal apparatus is provided in a
 management center.

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6. The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising:
a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said
remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein said control apparatus comprises storage means for storing
5 a transmission destination table including a transmission destination
indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the
answer signal should be transmitted to, for each of said local terminal
apparatus, and

wherein said gateway means transmits the received answer signal
10 to the remote terminal apparatus determined by referring to the
transmission destination table stored in said storage means, via the
external network.

7. The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising a
plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote
15 terminal apparatuses,

wherein said control apparatus comprises storage means for storing
a transmission destination table including a transmission destination
indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the
answer signal should be transmitted to, for each of said local terminal
20 apparatus and for each status information of the received answer signal,
and

wherein said gateway means transmits the received answer signal
to the remote terminal apparatus determined by referring to the
transmission destination table stored in said storage means, via the
25 external network.

8. The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising a

plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein each of said local terminal apparatuses comprises storage means for storing a transmission destination table including a

5. transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the answer signal should be transmitted to, and

wherein said reply means transmits the answer signal to be transmitted to the remote terminal apparatus determined by referring to the transmission destination table stored in said storage means, via the
10 local network, said control apparatus and the external network.

9. The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein each of said local terminal apparatuses comprises storage
15 means for storing a transmission destination table including a transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the answer signal should be transmitted to, in accordance to the status information of the answer signal, and

wherein said reply means transmits the answer signal to be
20 transmitted to the remote terminal apparatus determined by referring to the transmission destination table stored in said storage means, via the local network, said control apparatus and the external network.

10. The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote
25 terminal apparatuses,

wherein each of said remote terminal apparatuses comprises

storage means for storing a transmission destination table including a transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the answer signal corresponding to the request signal should be transmitted to,

5 wherein said transceiver means transmits via the external network the request signal further including a transmission destination information of the answer signal corresponding to the request signal, the transmission destination information being indicated by the transmission destination table stored in said storage means, and

10 wherein said reply means transmits the answer signal to be transmitted to the remote terminal apparatus indicated by the transmission destination information included in the request signal, via the local network, said control apparatus and the external network.

11. The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising
15 a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein each of said remote terminal apparatuses comprises storage means for storing a transmission destination table including a transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote
20 terminal apparatuses the answer signal corresponding to the request signal should be transmitted to, in accordance to the status information of the answer signal,

wherein the transceiver means transmits via the external network the request signal further including a transmission destination information
25 of the answer signal corresponding to the request signal, the transmission destination information being indicated by the transmission destination

table stored in said storage means, and

wherein said reply means transmits the answer signal to be transmitted to the remote terminal apparatus, which is indicated by the transmission destination information included in the request signal and which corresponds to status information of the answer signal, via the local network, said control apparatus and the external network.

12. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said local terminal apparatus comprises an electric power consuming apparatus for consuming a commercial electric power,

wherein said processing executing means measures an electric power consumption of said electric power consuming apparatus, and

wherein said reply means returns the answer signal including information of the measured electric power consumption in response to the request signal.

13. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said processing executing means supervises a disaster status of said facility, and

wherein said reply means returns the answer signal including information of the supervised disaster status in response to the request signal.

14. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said local terminal apparatus comprises a lighting equipment,

wherein said processing executing means executes processing for selectively changing over an operating status of said lighting equipment, and

wherein said reply means returns the answer signal including information of the operating status of said lighting equipment selectively changed over by said processing executing means, in response to the request signal.

5 15. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said processing executing means measures measurement values of meteorological observation, and

wherein said reply means returns the answer signal including information of the measurement values measured by said processing
10 executing means, in response to the request signal.

16. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said processing executing means detects multi-media information including image and voice signals, and

wherein said reply means returns the answer signal including the
15 multi-media information detected by said processing executing means, in response to the request signal.

17. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said processing executing means detects human body information, and

20 wherein said reply means returns the answer signal including the human body information detected by said processing executing means, in response to the request signal.

18. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said local terminal apparatus comprises a home delivery
25 service box,

wherein said processing executing means detects a status of the

home delivery service box, and

wherein said reply means returns the answer signal including the status of said home delivery service box detected by said processing executing means in response to the request signal.

5 19. The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses,

wherein a part of the plurality of the local terminal apparatuses is provided in a personal space of said facility, and the other part thereof is provided in a common area space of said facility.

10 20. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said facility includes at least one of an office, a store and an apartment house, and

wherein said control apparatus is one of a supervisory control panel and a lobby entryphone integrated with a controller.

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